

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 175767
ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 PM-05 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 INRE-00
SSO-00 SAA-01 SS-15 CPR-02 /044 R

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
CINCPAC HONOLULU HAWAII 0793
CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK
CNO WASHDC
COMIDEASTFOR
CINCPACFLT PEARL HARBOR HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 175767

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP

SUBJECT: VISIT TO US BY PAK NAVAL CHIEF

REF: A. STATE 96322

1. REFTTEL A INDICATED THAT DEPT AGREED TO DISCOURAGE
OFFICIAL CNO INVITATION TO ADM SHARIFF, PAK NAVAL CHIEF,
IN JUNE-JULY 78 TIME FRAME.

2. SAME REFTTEL NOTED HIGH VALUE US NAVY PLACES ON USN-PAK
CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 STATE 175767

NAVY RELATIONSHIP AND SUGGESTED THAT IF SHARIFF WANTED TO
VISIT US INFORMALLY FOR COMMISSIONING OF TWO DESTROYERS
THIS SUMMER, USN WOULD BE PREPARED TO GIVE HIM APPROPRIATE
WELCOME.

3. SEPARATE FROM ABOVE, US NAVY NOW STAFFING PLANS TO EX-
TEND ADM CURSETJI A FORMAL INVITATION TO VISIT US AS GUEST

OF CNO. INDIANS HAVE INFORMALLY INDICATED THAT VISIT IN OCT 78 WOULD BE GOOD TIME. INVITATION SLATED TO BE MADE IN JULY. VISIT WOULD BE IN RETURN FOR ADM HOLLOWAY'S VISIT TO INDIA (AND PAKISTAN) LAST YEAR.

4. COMPARISON OF US MILITARY INTERESTS IN INDIA VS PAKISTAN MOST STRIKING IN NAVY CONTEXT. US NAVY SHIPS REGULARLY

CALL AT KARACHI - AND MAY USE PORT MORE UNDER NEW MIDEAST ARRANGEMENT. BY CONTRAST, US NAVY SHIPS, BECAUSE OF LALL FORMULA, DO NOT VISIT INDIAN PORTS AT ALL. SHOULD KARACHI BE DENIED US NAVY, ONLY SRI LANKA WOULD BE LEFT IN EASTERN ARABIAN SEA.

5. GIVEN ABOVE CONSIDERATIONS, WE ARE CONCERNED ABOUT COMPARISON PAKS WILL MAKE WHEN INDIAN NAVY CHIEF RECEIVES FORMAL USN INVITATION. PAKS COULD LEGITIMATELY CLAIM THAT THEY ARE RECEIVING "SECOND CLASS" TREATMENT, PARTICULARLY SINCE US CNO VISITED BOTH INDIA AND PAKISTAN.

6. THEREFORE, STATE AND DEFENSE NOW BELIEVE WE SHOULD CONSIDER EXTENDING FORMAL INVITATION TO ADM SHARIFF FOR VISIT TO US. WE NOTE THAT TENTATIVE DEPARTURE DATE FOR TWO DESTROYERS NOW SCHEDULED FOR OCT/NOV. IF ADM SHARIFF VISITS US ON INFORMAL VISIT FOR COMMISSIONING IN LATE SUMMER (OR FOR SHIPS' DEPARTURE IN OCTOBER), CONTRAST
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PAGE 03 STATE 175767

WITH INDIAN VISIT WOULD BE PRONOUNCED.

7. THERE IS FORTUITOUS DEVELOPMENT RE CNO'S TENTATIVE SCHEDULE FOR VISITS BY FOREIGN NAVY CHIEFS, PERMITTING SCHEDULE SHARIFF FOR FORMAL VISIT IN NOV 78. IF VISIT IS EARLY ENOUGH IN NOVEMBER, MAY BE POSSIBLE TO ADJUST DEPARTURE DATE OF DESTROYERS SO THAT SHARIFF COULD INCLUDE DESTROYER DEPARTURE CEREMONY AS PART OF VISIT.

8. CNO IS TRANSMITTING TO USDAO PERSONAL LETTER TO ADM SHARIFF. ALUSNA AUTHORIZED TO DELIVER LETTER, SUBJECT TO EMBASSY CONCURRENCE. CHRISTOPHER

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